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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.

Appl. No. 09/684,103

Reply to 03/15/04 Office Action

09/684,103

Confirmation No.

: 3137

Applicant

Douglas U. Mennie et al.

Filed

October 5, 2000

TC/A.U.

3653

Examiner

Jeffrey A. Shapiro

Docket No.

47171-00271USP1

Customer No.

30223

REPLY TO THE OFFICE ACTION MAILED MARCH 15, 2004

Mail Stop No-Fee Amendment Commissioner For Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE 37 C.F.R. 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence for Application Serial No. 09/684,103 is being sent by facsimile to The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office via fax number 703-872-9306 on the

date\shown helow: July 14, 2004.

Joanna Pinos

Dear Commissioner:

This paper is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed March 15, 2004, for which the three-month date for response was June 15, 2004. Applicants have enclosed a petition for extension of time to extend the period for response to the Office Action mailed March 15, 2004 one (1) month, from June 15, 2004 to July 15, 2004. In response to the Office Action mailed March 15, 2004, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to enter the following amendments and to consider the following remarks.

The Applicants' Listing of Claims begins on page 2 of this paper.

The Applicants' Remarks begin on page 11 of this paper.